



JEFFREY V. KESSLER
PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

THE SENATE OF WEST VIRGINIA
OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR
CHARLESTON 25305

September 12, 2014

Via ECFS

Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20554

Re: AT&T/DirectTV Merger, Docket No. 14-90

Dear Ms. Dortch:

On behalf of the more than 300,000 West Virginians who have no broadband service or are underserved in the broadband market, I write today to express my support for the proposed AT&T/DirectTV merger.

A combined AT&T/DirectTV promises to bring new and better broadband options to millions of Americans, the majority of whom are in rural areas. As the second-most rural state, many West Virginia broadband customers will, for the first time, enjoy the same fast Internet service that many customers in better-served areas take for granted.

AT&T will offer fixed Wireless Local Loop (WLL) service to an estimated 13 million rural locations. These locations will be spread across 48 states both in and out of AT&T's wireline region, including many underserved locations in West Virginia.

Almost 20 percent of these 13 million customer locations have no access to terrestrial broadband services today. An additional 27 person of these 13 million customer locations have only one terrestrial broadband option today; in most instances that single option is DSL or a relatively slow cable modem service.


Fixed WLL is designed to perform as well as terrestrial broadband services that advertise speeds of 15-20 Mbps. In those areas where AT&T will deploy the fixed WLL solution, it will be comparable and typically superior to existing wireline services in both speed and

reliability.

These unserved and underserved areas will enjoy a true bundle of integrated satellite video, home broadband, and home VoiP services, resulting in a more competitive and desirable offering for these largely rural customers.

In today's world, business, education and economic development are driven by high-speed Internet access. Nowhere is this needed more than in West Virginia.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Jeffrey V. Kessler". The signature is fluid and stylized, with a large initial 'J' and a long, sweeping underline.

Jeffrey V. Kessler

JVK/jws